



GLENCOE MANSION MUSEUM & GALLERY

600 Unruh Drive - Radford, Virginia 24141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2022

Special Note to Editor: The authors of *The Whartons' War: The Civil War Correspondence of General Gabriel C. Wharton and Anne Radford Wharton, 1861-1865* are available for interviews. Contact Scott Gardner, Executive Director, to set up an interview by calling (540-392-4138) or emailing info@glencoemansion.org.

Long-Awaited Historic Letters Are Now Published

RADFORD, VA—A book nearly 160 years in the making is now illuminating life during the Civil War in Southwest Virginia. The book, which has just been released by the University of North Carolina Press, features the wartime correspondence between Confederate newlyweds Brigadier General Gabriel C. Wharton and Anne Radford Wharton. The surviving 524 letters are astounding and reveal that we still have so much to learn about our history.

Co-edited by William C. Davis, a former professor of history at Virginia Tech and the author or editor of 50 books on Civil War and Southern history, and Sue Heth Bell, the Whartons' great-great granddaughter, "The Whartons' War" is one of the fullest known sets of correspondence by a high-level officer and his wife from the time of their courtship to the end of the war when Gabriel C. Wharton swore loyalty to the United States and accepted parole before returning to his home in Radford.

Separated by 20 years in age and differing opinions on many subjects, these two well-educated and articulate Virginians frankly discussed their thoughts on generals and politicians, the course of the war, the fate of the Confederacy, life at home and their wavering loyalties. They also explored the shifting gender roles brought on by the war, changing relations between slave owners and enslaved people and much more.

The new home they eventually built in Radford just above the New River is today the Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery, which is sponsoring the launch of the new book Friday, Aug. 19 at 5 p.m. in the City's Council Chambers at 10 Robertson St. The authors will provide insight into

the couple's correspondence and how the book developed during a multi-year process. A book signing will follow, and copies will be available to purchase.

Glencoe's executive director Scott Gardner, who gets to share the story of the Whartons daily, says "we're excited to kick-off the promotion of this book." According to Gardner, "General Wharton graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and began his career as an engineer. When war broke out in 1861, he enlisted and was deployed to southwest Virginia where he met an independent-minded, feisty young woman who would change his life forever. In turn, General Wharton forever transformed Southwest Virginia's development."

"One of my favorite aspects of history," Gardner adds, "is pulling information out from the shadows. This information helps illustrate how life really was and challenges our conventional views and the Wharton letters certainly do that."

For additional info call the museum at (540) 731-5031 or email info@glencoemansion.org.

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